

HB 5679 TESTIMONY

Committee Members; Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am a registrant and have been a registrant for 15 years.

For anyone on the registry, it is severe punishment. I've had many failed jobs or been unable to obtain work even with a Bachelor of Finance from MSU. People who wanted to take a chance on me working for them were too afraid to have their location and business displayed online for all to see. This is an extremely hard hurdle to overcome. Due to the lack of work I've lost a home to foreclosure and live in fear that if someone brings it up to my current employer, I will be let go again. It isn't due to my conviction, it's due to the registry and its online nature. Even a standard background check will only go back 7 years and come up empty.

I live in fear, with extreme anxiety daily. I'm 43, active, and have high blood pressure. My home is surrounded by cameras, even though I live in a very remote area. I am constantly worried that someone will find out my status. I was at a restaurant with friends and someone called the police because it was attached to a trampoline park. I was with adults, nowhere near the area. It was humiliating.

I'm young and want to get married, even have children of my own. Yet I'm too afraid to do so. I'm afraid that they would have to live through the same things I have to; banishment. Banishment in the sense that their lives would be profoundly harder just to be "normal" living with me. This is true, I live through this currently. I have someone in my life that I've been with for 5 years. She will not marry me, so she isn't associated with the registry because she has kids and fears for them being punished and not have friends. If it were just a felony conviction and not on a public registry, I would be married with children of my own.

HB 5679 should not move forward for many reasons.

1. The overwhelming evidence and science suggest that registries do not help but hurt and do not keep our communities safer.
2. Evidence also suggest that after 15 years of not committing another offense, the likelihood of doing so is the same as the general population who has not.
 - a. HB 5679 should not have 25 or life registration when it is not supported by any factual evidence that it is necessary or rationally related to its purpose.
3. People should have an opportunity to show, by proof of their actions over time, that they are rehabilitated and pose not risk to society.
 - a. HB 5679 should include a path off of the registry after a shortened timeframe.
4. Not all offenders or someone who commits a crime are the same. There are circumstances to everyone individually and this should be taken into account.
 - a. HB 5679 should eliminate the Offense Based Tiers.
 - b. Any registry should be based on Risk.
5. Juveniles who offend are even less likely to reoffend or become adult offenders. One- time juvenile offenders pose the least risk to society. This includes juveniles charged as adults.
 - a. HB 5679 should eliminate anyone who's offense was committed as a juvenile, regardless of age or offense

HB 5679 is harmful to our state, to registrants and to families. It does nothing to protect our communities as science shows. We can do better and we deserve a real law that it grounded in research and reality. The reality is that registries and laws like HB 5679 are destructive and do not allow for people to move on with their lives. The reality is HB 5679 would further destroy lives, allow for a bloated and ineffective registry. The ACLU has worked tirelessly with Michigan stakeholders on a better, more comprehensive law. The reality is HB 5679 should not move forward.

Sincerely,
Bryan